

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES REGULATIONS 2007-08



INCLUDES REGULATIONS FOR

- ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES
- OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLES
- OFF-ROAD VEHICLES





This is a summary of Minnesota's safety laws, rules and regulations for off-highway vehicles. For the purposes of this guide, off-highway vehicles include all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles and off-road vehicles. For complete regulations consult state statutes and rules.

This information is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling (651) 296-6157 (Metro Area) or 1-888-MINNDNR or Telecommunication Device for the Deaf/TTY: (651) 296-5484 (Metro Area) or 1-800-657-3929.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

DNR Web Site: www.mndnr.gov/ohv

Where To Ride Your OHV: www.findthetrails.com

Safety Training: DNR Information Center, (651) 296-6157, toll-free 1-888-646-6367 or DNR Safety Training Program Headquarters, Camp Ripley, Little Falls, MN, 1-800-366-8917.

State Trails: DNR Information Center, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4040, (651) 296-6157, toll-free 1-888-646-6367; www.findthetrails.com

Vehicle Registration: DNR License Center, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4026, (651) 296-2316, toll-free 1-800-285-2000.

Hearing Impaired: (651) 296-5484, toll-free 1-800-657-3929.

A Message From Your DNR Conservation Officers
Parents Keep Your Kids Safe!

Each year thousands of people are treated in hospital emergency rooms across the country for serious injuries received while riding an all-terrain vehicle (ATV). Many die and many are children.

ATVs are powerful machines. They are not toys. Parents need to make sure that their children are properly trained and supervised if they are going to allow them to operate an ATV. The manufacturers of ATVs recommend that no one under age 16 operate an ATV over 90 CCs. Rollover accidents are very common. Imagine a 500 to 600 pound vehicle landing on your child.

Don't let your family or friends become an accident statistic. Take the ATV Safety Training Course!

WHAT'S NEW!

Beginning in 2008 the three-year registration fee for an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) is \$45, plus the issuance fee.

No registration is required for ATVs 25 years or older.
See page 9.

Anyone under the age of 16 must have a parent's or guardian's permission to operate an ATV.

All ATV operators and passengers under the age of 18 must wear a helmet.

Class 2 ATV operators and passengers under the age of 18 must wear a seatbelt if provided by the machine manufacturer.

Adult operators of Class 2 ATVs can carry one passenger or up to the number of passengers the machine is designed to carry, whichever is greater.

Road authorities may now restrict operation of ATVs on roads under their jurisdiction.

Beginning August 1, 2007 Class 2 ATVs may **not** be operated on the shoulder of a state trunk highway.



MINNESOTA'S CONSERVATION OFFICERS
Celebrating 120 Years of Service
1887 - 2007

DEFINITIONS

The term off-highway vehicle (OHV) is used to describe all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-road vehicles.

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)



Class 1 ATVs are motorized flotation-tired vehicles with at least three but no more than six low pressure tires that have an engine displacement of less than 800 cubic centimeters and total dry weight of less than 900 pounds.

Class 2 ATVs are motorized flotation-tired vehicles with at least three but no more than six low pressure tires that have an engine displacement of less than 800 cubic centimeters and total dry weight of 900 to 1,500 pounds.

Off-highway motorcycles (OHMs)



OHMs are motorized off-highway vehicles traveling on two wheels. OHMs have a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and have handlebars for steering control. Motorcycles may be legal for highway use and still considered to be OHMs if used for off-highway operation on trails or natural terrain.

Off-road vehicles (ORVs)



ORVs are motorized recreational vehicles capable of cross-country travel on natural terrain, such as four-wheel-drive trucks. (ORVs under 1,500 pounds are registered as Class 2 ATVs.)

Note: Vehicles NOT considered ORVs include snowmobiles, ATVs, OHMs, motorcycles, watercraft or aircraft. Farm, logging, military, emergency, law enforcement, utility, trail grooming, and construction vehicles are not considered to be ORVs when used for their intended purpose.

Grant-in-aid trails and areas include trails and areas that receive grants through the DNR administered grant-in-aid program.

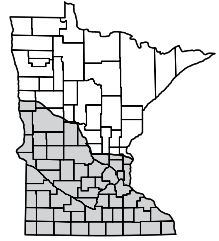
Off-Highway Vehicles Regulations

Agricultural zone restriction

You may not drive an ATV within the right-of-way (ditch) of a state or county road from April 1 to August 1 in the agricultural zone. This does not apply to Class 1 ATVs registered and used exclusively for agricultural purposes. Class 2 ATVs cannot be operated in ditches.

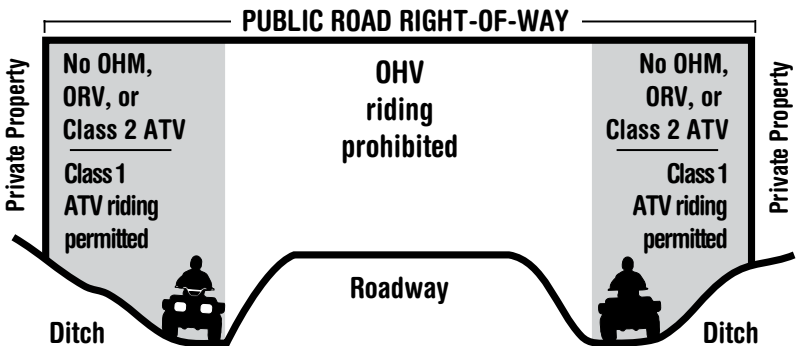
Agricultural zone

The Minnesota agricultural zone is the area lying south and west of a line formed by the following highway rights-of-way: starting at the North Dakota border, the line goes east along State Highway 10 to State Highway 23, then follows Highway 23 east to State Highway 95 to the Wisconsin border. The agricultural zone does not include the rights-of-way of these boundary highways, and applies only to Class 1 ATV use.



Off-highway vehicle use areas are areas posted or designated for off-highway vehicle use.

Public road right-of-way means the entire right-of-way of a roadway that is not privately owned, including the traveled portions, banks, ditches, shoulders, and medians.



It is illegal to operate on the inside slope, shoulder, and roadway of state and county roads. NOTE: Class 2 ATVs may be operated on the shoulder or extreme right side of county roads and on the right side of township roads and city streets if not prohibited by the road authority or other local laws. Class 2 ATVs may NOT be operated on the shoulder of a state trunk highway.

Public waters where OHVs may not ride include: below the ordinary high-water level of unfrozen lakes, rivers, and streams; certain wetlands; or in calcareous fens. The inventory of public waters can be viewed on DNR’s web site or at DNR Waters and Fisheries offices; and at county auditors, soil and water district, watershed district, and zoning and engineering offices.

Watch for these designated trail signs.



Class 1 ATV trail indicator



Class 1 and 2 ATV trail indicator



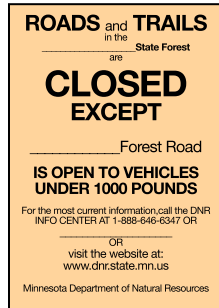
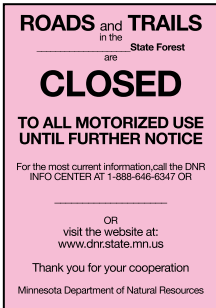
OHM trail indicator



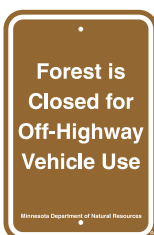
ORV trail indicator

Note: A diagonal slash across a sign indicates trail closed for that type of vehicle use.

Look for these seasonal or temporary signs in state forests.



Before operating an OHV in a state forest, look for these signs and see pages 19-23 for additional information on state forest use.



OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES REGISTRATION

An individual must be at least 18 years old to register an off-highway vehicle.

ATVs

All-terrain vehicles are classified and registered as either a Class 1 ATV (under 900 pounds) or a Class 2 ATV (900 to 1,500 pounds). All ATVs operated in Minnesota must be registered with the DNR, including those used exclusively on private property. Any vehicle that meets the definition of a Class 2 ATV will be registered as a Class 2 ATV at the time of new, renewal, transfer, or duplicate registration. Class 1 or Class 2 will be indicated on the owner's ATV registration card and decal.

NEW! ATVs 25 years and older are exempt from registration if they were originally produced as a separate, identifiable make by a manufacturer.

ATV Public/Recreational Use Registration

Public use registration allows for the operation of Class 1 ATVs in the ditch bottom and on the outer slope of roadside ditches along state and county roads, and on the right side of township roads and city streets, if not prohibited by the road authority or other local laws.

Public use registration allows for the operation of Class 2 ATVs on the shoulder or extreme right side of county roads and on the right side of township roads and city streets, if not prohibited by the road authority or other local laws. Class 2 ATVs may not be operated in the ditch unless part of a designated Class 2 trail or on the shoulder of a state trunk highway.

ATV Private/Agricultural Use Registration

ATVs (Class 1 and Class 2) are registered for private use when used exclusively for agricultural activities, harvesting wood, or on private property. A private use registration does not expire and is valid until the ownership of the ATV is transferred.

ATV Public and Private Use Registration

Some circumstances require ATVs to be registered for both public and private use. If an ATV is used for agricultural purposes on road surfaces, a private use registration is required. If the same ATV is also used on public land or frozen water, both public and private use registrations are needed.

OHMs

All OHMs operated in Minnesota must be registered with DNR, even if used exclusively on private property or in track racing events.

OHM Recreational and Highway Use Registration

Some OHMs are equipped so that they may be legally licensed for highway use. An OHM licensed for highway use that is also used off-road must have both the regular motorcycle license and the DNR OHM registration.

ORVs

All ORVs operated on grant-in-aid ORV trails or areas, or on designated ORV trails or areas that are on DNR administered land, must be registered with DNR.

ORV Recreational and Highway Use Registration

Many ORVs are licensed for highway use. An ORV licensed for highway use that is also operated on designated public ORV use areas or trails must have both the regular vehicle license and DNR ORV registration.

Minnesota OHV registration is NOT required for:

- OHVs registered in another state or country and not in Minnesota for more than 30 days
- ATVs that are used exclusively in organized track racing events
- ATVs that are 25 years and older
- OHMs registered for highway use when operated on forest roads.

How To Register An Off-highway Vehicle

Off-highway vehicles can be registered at a deputy registrar of motor vehicles office (where automobile licenses are handled) or at the DNR License Center in St. Paul. You may **renew** your OHV registration on-line at www.mndnr.gov. No additional fee will be charged.

Off-Highway Vehicles Regulations

The information required for registration of an off-highway vehicle includes the make, model, year, serial number, and sales receipt. For ATV and OHM registration the engine size is required. For ATV registration the dry weight is also required.

ATVs and OHMs purchased from a retail dealer must be registered at the dealer by the owner.

A registration card and an expiration decal are issued when an ATV or OHM is registered.

Owners of ORVs licensed for roadway use must register their ORVs with the DNR for use on designated trails and areas. The owner is given a registration card and decal at the time of registration.

If you sell your OHV give the new owner the registration card and a bill of sale.

Any transfers and registration renewals are the responsibility of the owner.

Dealer and Manufacturer Registration

OHV dealers and manufacturers must register with the DNR to operate machines for testing or demonstration purposes. A registration certificate and a registration plate will be issued. The registration certificate must be prominently displayed in the place of business. Additional plates are available for \$4.00 plus filing fee.

The registration plate must be displayed on the vehicle before dealers or manufacturers may operate or permit operation of any off-highway vehicle they own or control.

Dealer and manufacturer registration applications and plates may be purchased at a local deputy registrar and at the DNR License Center, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4026, 651-296-2316, or toll-free 1-800-285-2000. The plates will be issued from the DNR.

Registration Fees

ATV Registration Fees (Class 1 and Class 2)	Fee	Issuance Fees	Total Fees	Duration
New Public Use	*45.00	8.50	53.50	3 Years
Renewal Public Use	*45.00	6.00	51.00	3 Years
Transfer	4.00	8.50	12.50	As long as machine is held by same party
Private/Agricultural	6.00	8.50	14.50	
Duplicate	4.00	6.00	10.00	
Dealer–New	50.00	8.50	58.50	1 Year
Dealer–Renewal	50.00	6.00	56.00	1 Year
Manufacturer–New	150.00	8.50	158.50	1 Year
Manufacturer–Renewal	150.00	6.00	156.00	1 Year
Duplicate Decal		6.00	6.00	

OHM Registration Fees	Fee	Issuance Fees	Total Fees	Duration
New	30.00	8.50	38.50	3 Years
Renewal	30.00	6.00	36.00	3 Years
Transfer	4.00	8.50	12.50	
Duplicate	4.00	6.00	10.00	
Dealer–New	50.00	8.50	58.50	1 Year
Dealer–Renewal	50.00	6.00	56.00	1 Year
Manufacturer–New	150.00	8.50	158.50	1 Year
Manufacturer–Renewal	150.00	6.00	156.00	1 Year
Duplicate Decal		6.00	6.00	

ORV Registration Fees	Fee	Issuance Fees	Total Fees	Duration
New	30.00	8.50	38.50	3 Years
Renewal	30.00	6.00	36.00	3 Years
Transfer	4.00	8.50	12.50	
Duplicate	4.00	6.00	10.00	
Dealer–New	50.00	8.50	58.50	1 Year
Manufacturer–New	150.00	8.50	158.50	1 Year
Manufacturer–Renewal	150.00	6.00	156.00	1 Year
Duplicate Decal		6.00	6.00	

* Fee increase effective for 2008 ATV registrations.

ATVs 25 years and older do not need to be registered.

Display of Numbers and Decals

ATV

ATVs registered for public or dual use must display the current public use registration number and decal(s) on a plate at least 4 inches high and 7½ inches long. The plate must be clearly visible on the back of the vehicle and at least 12 inches from the ground. The plate and decal must be maintained in a clear and legible condition.

Off-Highway Vehicles Regulations

Registration letters and numbers must be:

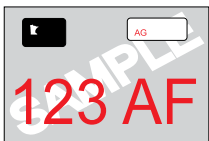
- at least 1½ inches high with a 3/16-inch stroke
- in English and placed from left to right
- in a color that contrasts with the background of the plate.



For a public use registration, the decal must be displayed in the upper left section of the plate.



For private use only registration, the private use decal must be displayed in the upper right section of the plate. No numbers are needed for this type of registration.



For a dual registration, the private use decal must also be displayed in the upper right section of the plate.

OHM

OHMs registered only for off-road use must display the current registration decal on the side of the OHM in a manner so it is visible while the rider is on the OHM. It may be attached to the fork tube. If you registered prior to July 1, 2005 and have the decal displayed on the rear plate, that location is acceptable until you renew your registration.

When an OHM is operated on private property, or in a closed-course competition event, registration is required but the registration decal does not have to be displayed.

OHMs licensed in Minnesota for roadway use and registered for off-road use, must display the OHM decal in the upper left corner of the rear regular motorcycle license plate. The DNR registration number should not be displayed.



ORV

ORVs registered only for designated trail or area use must display the current decal on a plate at least 4 inches high and 7½ inches long. No registration number should be displayed. The plate must be clearly visible on the back of the vehicle and at least 12 inches from the ground. The decal must be displayed in the upper left corner of the plate. The plate and decal must be maintained in a clear and legible condition.



ORVs licensed in Minnesota for roadway use and also used off-road in designated public ORV trails and use areas, must display the ORV decal in the upper left corner of the regular rear motor vehicle license plate. The DNR registration number should not be displayed.



Expiration and Renewal

The expiration date appears on both the registration card and the decal. All public use ATV and all OHM and ORV renewals expire on December 31st of the last year the registration is valid.

Individuals who notify the DNR of mailing address changes should receive a notice by mail to renew their registration. Whether notified or not, owners are responsible for renewing their public use ATV, OHM, and ORV registrations.

Private use ATV registration does not expire. It is valid until the ownership is transferred.

Replacement Registration Cards and Decals

Off-highway vehicle owners may obtain a replacement registration card for \$10.00 or a replacement decal for \$6.00 from the DNR License Center or the Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles. Replacement decals and numbers must be affixed in the same manner as the original.

Individuals are not required to carry the registration card, but when an enforcement officer requests to see it, it must be provided within a reasonable time period.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

The following regulations apply to all off-highway vehicles: all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-road vehicles. Information and regulations specific to each of these vehicle types can be found in the All-Terrain Vehicle, Off-Highway Motorcycle, and Off-Road Vehicle sections of this booklet.

Required Equipment

Off-highway vehicles operated on public lands, waters, trails, and public streets and roads open to vehicle use, must be equipped as follows:

Brakes

- Brakes must control movement and stop and hold the vehicle.

Throttle

- The throttle must return the engine to idle when pressure to advance the throttle is removed.

Mufflers

- Mufflers must have a federally approved spark arrestor.
- Overall noise emission from ATVs and ORVs may not exceed 99 decibels at a distance of 20 inches.
- OHMs that are not competition cycles, and were manufactured in or after 1986, may not exceed noise emissions of 96 decibels when operating on public lands.
- Mufflers may not be altered to increase motor noise, or have a cutout, bypass, or similar device except for organized events.

Towing

- A straight-arm bar must be used to tow a trailer or other device containing passengers.
- A disabled vehicle being towed may contain a person to steer.
- At least 16 square inches of reflective material that is unobstructed and visible must be mounted on each side and at the rear of a trailer or other device.

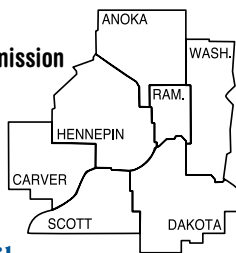
Where You May Ride

You may operate an off-highway vehicle:

- on private land with the landowners permission
- on frozen public waters where you have legal access, if not restricted by law or local ordinance
- on public lands and trails that are open to OHVs.

In the seven-county metro area, you may ride:

- on your own land
- on land other than your own with written or verbal permission of the landowner, occupant, or lessee
- on land posted with signs specifically permitting the use of off-highway vehicles.



For more information on where you can ride including trails and maps go to www.findthetrails.com.

Land uses vary. Be sure to check federal, state, and local regulations for specific restrictions.

Where You May NOT Ride

Also see specific sections for additional restrictions.

You may not operate an off-highway vehicle:

- on the median of a four-lane highway
- within the right-of-way of any interstate highway
- on the right-of-way between opposing lanes of traffic
- on grant-in-aid snowmobile trails
- on designated non-motorized trails
- at airports
- below the ordinary high-water level of unfrozen public waters that are lakes, streams, rivers, and certain wetlands, or in calcareous fens
- on any frozen public waters where you don't have legal access or where it is prohibited
- in most state parks, state recreation areas, state historic sites, wildlife management areas,* or state scientific and natural areas with the exception of posted trails and areas
- in any area restricted by local ordinances or municipalities, including streets
- in a tree nursery or planting area on state forest lands that are posted or designated closed to motorized uses (see pages 19-23)
- on agricultural land without permission (see page 25).

* OHV use is generally prohibited on wildlife management areas (WMA) with the exception of Carlos Avery, Hubbel Pond, Mille Lacs, Red Lake, Roseau River and Thief Lake, where highway licensed motor vehicles may be operated on established roads at speeds up to 20 miles per hour.

Off-Highway Vehicles Regulations

OHMs, ORVs, and Class 2 ATVs cannot be operated in ditches unless on a trail designated for that specific vehicle type.

Inside the seven-county metro area, you may not ride

- on land you do not own unless given written or verbal permission by the owner, occupant, or lessee.

Outside the seven-county metro area you may not ride

- on land that you have been told verbally, in writing, or by posted signs, not to ride.

Other Prohibitions

You may not:

- operate an off-highway vehicle in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner that endangers another person or property
- litter
- enter or leave lands by cutting wire or tearing down a fence
- mutilate, destroy, damage, or remove any property within a trail or on state land
- post, damage, or remove any signs on any lands or waters unless you are the landowner, occupant, or lessee of the property.

OHVs and Wetland Disturbance

A person may not operate an OHV in a manner to:

- indicate a willful, wanton, or reckless disregard for the safety of persons or property
- carelessly upset the natural and ecological balance of a wetland or public waters wetland
- impact a wetland or public waters wetland in excess of minimum amounts established under law.

Wetland restrictions vary by area of the state and other criteria. Check the DNR Web site for more information, www.mndnr.gov.

Check For Other Government Regulations or Ordinances

Cities, towns, and counties may further regulate the operation of off-highway vehicles under their jurisdiction. Check with the appropriate unit of government for additional regulations. The U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulate motor vehicle use on federal lands. Check with the managing agency before riding on these lands.

Speed

You may not operate an off-highway vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable under all of the surrounding circumstances or greater than the posted speed limit on any public lands, waters, trails, or public road rights-of-way. Speed limit signs may be erected along specific portions of trails.

Speed limits may be waived in writing by the DNR for an organized race or similar competitive event. Contact the DNR at 1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367).

Trail Riding

- All trail signs must be obeyed.
- One-way trails must be traveled in the direction indicated.
- When meeting or being passed by another trail user, you must stay to the right half of the tread-way.
- When passing another trail user you must pass on the left half of the tread-way and only when the trail is free from oncoming traffic to safely pass the other trail user.
- When entering or crossing a trail tread-way you must yield to trail traffic.
- When two trail users are about to enter an unmarked tread-way intersection from different directions, the trail user to the right has the right-of-way.
- Motorized trail users must yield the right-of-way to non-motorized trail users and shut off their machines when meeting a horse until the horse has passed or until waved on.

Crossing Public Roads

A valid driver's license is required to operate anywhere it is legal on road rights-of-way including ditches, inside and outside slopes, and crossing roads. The only exception would be on portions of a designated trail for that vehicle type that specifically includes a road right-of-way.

When making a direct crossing of a street or road:

- come to a complete stop and look both ways
- yield to all traffic
- cross the road at a 90 degree angle
- cross a divided road only at an intersection.

To report any OHV violation, contact the local police department, sheriff's office, the state patrol, or a DNR conservation officer. Conservation officers are dispatched and reached through the state patrol.

STATE FOREST LANDS

Regulations Relating to Off-Highway Vehicle Operation on State Forest Lands

Where you can ride an OHV in a state forest depends on the forest's classification.

For purposes of motor vehicle use, state forest lands are classified as managed, limited, or closed. Motor vehicle means any self-propelled vehicle including, but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, dune buggies, mini-bikes, motorcycles, trail bikes, and ATVs. It does not include snowmobiles.

State Forest Lands Classified as Managed:

In state forests classified as managed, motor vehicles may operate on forest roads and forest trails, unless they are posted or designated closed.

State Forest Lands Classified as Limited:

In state forests classified as limited, there is a distinction between forest roads and forest trails. Motor vehicles may ride on forest roads unless the road is posted closed. The opposite is true of trails. Motor vehicles may not operate on trails unless the trail is posted open.

State Forest Lands Classified as Closed:

In state forests classified as closed, no motor vehicles are allowed except vehicles licensed for highway use may use forest roads that are not posted or gated closed and on frozen public waters where it is not otherwise prohibited.

Counties may adopt a resolution to modify the above restrictions on county-administered forest land and within state forest boundaries.

NEW!

Legislation passed in the 2007 session requires that OHV's operate only on trails identified on an official Department of Natural Resource OHV map.

In a limited forest this will not be a change. Operation is allowed only on signed and mapped routes that are open for that type of OHV use.

In state forests north of U.S. Hwy. 2, this provision does not go into effect until June 30, 2009. After this date, in a managed forest, OHV's will be allowed to operate on mapped trails and other existing routes that are not gated or posted closed. Forest roads are open to OHV use in both the limited and managed state forests unless posted closed.

**Managed or Limited State Forest Land
Hunting and Trapping Exceptions**

Travel off roads and trails (cross-country travel) is prohibited on all state lands with four exceptions for ATVs operated in managed or limited state forests. In these state forests, Class1 ATVs may be used cross-country to:

- **retrieve big game (September through December)**
- **hunt for big game and to construct stands (October through December)**
- **trap during the open season for protected furbearers**
- **trap for minnows under certain conditions.**

These hunting and trapping exceptions also apply to Class 2 ATVs used on a trail not specifically designated for other uses.

These exceptions do not apply to the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest.

The ATV operator must have the appropriate valid hunting, trapping, or commercial license in possession.

State Forests Classification

State Forests Classified as Closed

- Birch Lakes State Forest
- Burntside State Forest*
- Insula Lake State Forest*
- Lake Isabella State Forest*
- Lake Jeanette State Forest*
- Pillsbury State Forest
- Sand Dunes State Forest
- Whiteface State Forest

* Portions within the BWCAW classified as closed.

For OHV trail seasons check www.findthetrail.com

State Forests Classified as Limited

- Badoura State Forest
- Chengwatana State Forest
- D.A.R. State Forest
- Fond du Lac State Forest
- Foothills State Forest
- General C.C. Andrews State Forest
- Nemadji State Forest
- Paul Bunyan State Forest
- Some areas of Finland State Forest
- R.J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest
- Rum River State Forest
- St. Croix State Forest
- Snake River State Forest
- Solana State Forest
- Wealthwood State Forest

State Forests Classified as Managed

The state forests not listed as closed or limited are classified as managed. The Legislature directed the Commissioner of Natural Resources to review the classification of state forests and determine the status of existing roads and trails by December 31, 2008. For those state forest lands south of U.S. Hwy. 2, the Commissioner must classify the lands as either limited or closed. The state forest lands north of U.S. Hwy. 2 are classified as managed unless the commissioner reclassifies them as limited or closed.

Note: These lists are subject to change as additional forest review and reclassification are completed. Go to the DNR Web site: www.mndnr.gov/ohv or www.findthetrails.com for the most current status.

General operating restrictions on state forest lands anywhere that motor vehicles are allowed:

- **No motor vehicle operation is allowed on designated non-motorized trails unless posted open for a motorized use.**
- **No motor vehicle operation is allowed on or over lakes, rivers, or streams except when the water body is ice covered, on a bridge, culvert, or designated low water crossing.**
- **Cross-country travel is prohibited except for big game hunting and retrieval, trapping, and constructing stands during certain times. See hunting and trapping exception on page 20.**
- **Motor vehicles may not operate on forest lands in a manner that causes erosion or rutting, damages or destroys trees or growing crops. The rutting provision does not apply on motorized trails or areas designated for that purpose.**
- **Motor vehicles may not operate within the boundaries of an area that is posted and designated as closed.**
- **Highway licensed OHVs may operate on a state forest road or a minimum maintenance state forest road, unless specifically prohibited by signs. (See road signs on page 8.)**
- **Motor vehicles on state forest roads must travel at a reasonable and prudent speed; obey posted speed limits and parking and traffic regulation signs; observe road closures; and may not be operated in a manner that causes damage to the road, land, or other natural resources.**
- **No person shall construct an unauthorized permanent trail on state forest land.**
- **Special provision for Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest: Motor vehicles and snowmobiles may operate on forest roads that are not posted closed and ONLY on forest trails that are designated for motorized use. No motorized travel is allowed off designated trails under any circumstances. Motorized trails are open for ATV and OHM use from May 1 to November 1.**

Events On State Forest Lands

A permit is required from a DNR area forester to hold an event on state forest lands.

Consent is required of the official or board having jurisdiction over the public lands or road rights-of-way to hold an event within those areas and may require a permit for the contest or event including restrictions and conditions.

A user fee may be charged. In addition, a bond or cashier's check may be required to ensure that cleanup and sign removal, damage repairs, and other actions are completed.

Off-Highway Vehicles Regulations

For emergencies or authorized special events, the DNR may provide temporary exceptions to the general rules for a specific state park, forest campground, forest day use area, or state forest lands. Notice of the exception will be posted at the site.

ENFORCEMENT

Conservation officers, deputy sheriffs, police and peace officers, and natural resource officers all enforce off-highway vehicle rules. You must stop when signaled by a law enforcement officer.

Penalties

- **Fleeing an enforcement officer on an OHV is a felony and the OHV used may be forfeited.**
- **A violation of an ATV or ORV law is a misdemeanor.**
- **A violation of an OHM law is a petty misdemeanor or a misdemeanor.**
- **Most operation, registration, and trespass violations can also be enforced by issuing a civil citation and can include restitution. Fines for second or subsequent violations in wetlands, including the use of snorkel devices or for careless or reckless operation, can be more than double.**

Violator Training Requirements

ATV, OHM, and ORV operators who receive a ticket and are convicted of violating any law related to OHV operation are required to complete the DNR safety training independent study program for that vehicle type before continuing to operate the vehicle. In addition to the independent study course, an ATV operator who is convicted of a careless or reckless offense, or for a second or subsequent offense, must complete a testing and operating component before continuing to operate an ATV.

Reporting Stolen, Abandoned, or Destroyed Vehicles

A registered off-highway vehicle that is abandoned, stolen, or destroyed must be reported to the DNR License Center within 15 days. No fee is charged for reporting the vehicle.

Accident Reports

The operator and an officer investigating an off-highway vehicle accident must file a written report of the accident to the DNR within 10 days if the accident resulted in a human injury requiring medical attention, hospitalization, or death; or total damage of

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\$300 or more for ORVs, or \$500 or more for ATVs and OHMs. Accident reports are available by calling the DNR or online at www.mndnr.gov.

OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED

Operating an off-highway vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, or other hazardous substance is unlawful. Operators who are impaired may be required to submit to tests by an enforcement officer to determine the presence of these substances. There is a separate, additional criminal penalty for refusal to submit to the test and the person's operating privileges for the vehicle type will be suspended for one year upon refusal. OHV DWI convictions and refusals are recorded on the violator's driver's license record and may affect their driver's license privileges.

An operator who is found to be impaired can be charged with a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony level DWI. Persons convicted of a misdemeanor will be subject to: up to \$1,000 fine (plus surcharges); possible jail sentence; and loss of OHV operating privileges for one year.

In addition to the above misdemeanor penalties, the following gross misdemeanor penalty provisions may apply if the person has prior DWI violations, has an alcohol concentration of .20 or more, or has a child under age 16 with them on the OHV:

- **up to \$3,000 fine**
- **motor vehicle plate impoundment of all motor vehicles owned or leased, individually or jointly, by the person**
- **longer, mandatory jail time**
- **chemical use assessment and long-term monitoring programs**
- **forfeiture of the OHV**
- **loss of motor vehicle driver's license privileges**
- **substantially higher fines.**

Felony level penalties include all of the above provisions, substantially higher fines (up to \$14,000), longer revocations, and longer mandatory jail time.

Off-Highway Vehicles Regulations

NEW! It is unlawful for a person to drink or consume alcoholic beverages when an OHV is operated on a roadway or shoulder of a roadway that is not a part of a designated trail for that vehicle type.

TRESPASS

Ask First!

You must have permission to enter legally posted land or agricultural land.



Trespass laws apply to all outdoor recreation including operation of your off-highway vehicle. Landowners, lessees, or land managers need only post their land to no trespassing once a year. Signs must be at intervals of 1,000 ft (500 ft in wooded areas) or signs may be placed at primary corners and at access points to the property. Signs must state No Trespassing or similar words in 2-inch letters and either the signature or the name and telephone number of the landowner, lessee, or manager.

Just because property isn't posted, that doesn't mean you have the right to enter someone else's private property. The posted signs indicate the landowner's intention to prevent unauthorized entry. There can be civil and criminal penalties for violation of the trespass laws. Civil penalties for OHVs start at \$100 for first offense and range up to \$500 and loss of license or registration for a third offense within three years. Penalties will be doubled for operation in wetlands or with snorkel devices.

Agricultural land is land that is: plowed or tilled; has standing crops or crop residue; is within a maintained fence for enclosing domestic livestock; is planted native or introduced hay land or grassland; or is planted to short rotation woody crops (hybrid poplar and other woody plants that are harvested for their fiber within 15 years of planting).

Note: All planted grassland, hay land, and short-rotation woody cropland meet the definition of agricultural land, including grasslands enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP),

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and the state RIM Reserve program. These lands do not need to be posted to prevent unauthorized trespass.

You may not:

- **wound or kill another person's domestic animal**
- **destroy private property**
- **pass through a closed gate without returning it to the original position**
- **stray off marked state trails.**

RELATED GAME LAWS

General Restrictions

It is unlawful to:

- **transport a firearm on any off-highway vehicle unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed in a case or is a handgun carried under a valid permit to carry**
- **transport an archery bow on any off-highway vehicle unless it is unstrung or enclosed in a case**
- **use any off-highway vehicle to chase, run over, or kill a wild animal**
- **shoot or attempt to shoot an animal from any off-highway vehicle without a special disability permit**
- **shoot from a standing motor vehicle.**

ATV cross-country travel is prohibited except during certain times for big game hunting and retrieval, trapping, and constructing stands. See hunting and trapping exception on page 20.

Firearms deer hunting

To reduce disturbance during prime hunting hours, a person possessing a valid deer license may operate an off-highway vehicle during the firearms deer season only:

- **before legal shooting hours (one-half hour before sunrise)**
- **from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.**
- **after legal shooting hours (one-half hour after sunset).**

This regulation applies to all public and private lands, however, landowners, or persons with permission of the private landowner, may operate all-terrain vehicles on their property anytime during the firearms deer season.

Off-Highway Vehicles Regulations

A permit to operate ATVs during the closed time periods may be issued by a DNR conservation officer in an emergency or other unusual condition. The above firearms deer provisions do not apply to vehicles licensed for highway use.

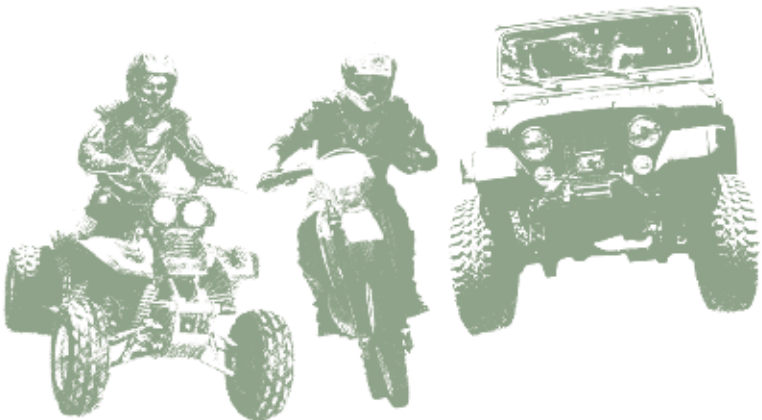
Discharge of firearms

A person may not discharge a firearm or bow and arrow at a grouse, or a decoy of a grouse placed by an enforcement officer, unless the person is at least 20 yards away from a motor vehicle and the motor is turned off. Exceptions will be made only for hunters with disabilities who are in possession of a valid permit allowing them to shoot from a standing motor vehicle.

Special permits for disabled hunters

A permit may be issued to shoot from a standing motor vehicle to a licensed hunter who has a permanent physical disability and is unable to step from a vehicle without the aid of a wheelchair, crutches, braces, or other mechanical support or prosthetic device; or is required to use supplemental oxygen to assist breathing because they are unable to walk any distance because of a permanent lung, heart, or other internal disease.

For more details contact the Department of Natural Resources Information Center toll-free 1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367).



ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE SECTION



Class 1 and Class 2 ATVs

NEW! A passenger or operator under the age of 18 must wear a helmet.

NEW! A person under the age of 16 must have the permission of their parent or guardian to operate an ATV.

A person under the age of 18 may not carry a passenger.

Class 1 ATVs (ATVs under 900 pounds)

NEW! An operator over 18 may carry one passenger.

Class 2 ATVs (ATVs and ORVs 900 to 1,500 pounds)

NEW! A person needs to be 15 years or older to operate a Class 2 ATV.

NEW! An operator 18 years or older may carry a passenger, or up to the number of passengers for which the vehicle was designed, which ever is greater.

NEW! An operator and passenger under the age of 18 must wear a seat belt if provided by the manufacturer.

NEW! Class 2 ATVs may NOT be operated on the shoulder of a state trunk highway.

Operation of a Class 2 ATV is limited to:

- **state forest roads**
- **shoulder or extreme right side of county roads and on the right side of township roads and city streets, if not prohibited by the road authority or other local laws, and with a valid driver's license**
- **designated Class 2 trails.**

REGISTRATION

ATVs that were previously registered as ORVs will now be registered as Class 2 ATVs. Class 2 registration will take place at the time of new or next renewal, transfer, or duplicate registration. Class 1 or Class 2 will be indicated on the owners ATV registration card and decal.

ATV YOUTHFUL OPERATORS

NEW! Anyone under the age of 16 must have a parent's or guardian's permission to operate an ATV.

It is unlawful for anyone in control of an ATV to permit it to be operated contrary to the following requirements:

Age	Requirement
Under 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May operate only on private property with permission of the owner• Must have parent or guardian permission to operate.
10 and 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May operate only on private property with permission of the owner• May operate ATV up to 90cc on public lands and frozen waters if accompanied by parent or legal guardian• Must wear an approved helmet while operating or riding on public lands, trails, and frozen public waters• Must have parent or guardian permission to operate.
12 through 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATV safety certificate valid only after successfully completing BOTH the independent study and riding safety component, and must be able to properly reach and control the handle bars and foot pegs while sitting upright on the seat (see fit requirements)• May operate an ATV on public lands and frozen waters and make direct crossing of roadways with a valid safety certificate if accompanied on another ATV by a person 18 or over who has a valid driver's license• Must wear approved helmet while operating or riding on public lands, trails, and frozen waters and when crossing road rights-of-way• Must have parent or guardian permission to operate.
15 and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May operate a Class 2 ATV• Must wear approved helmet while operating or riding on public lands, trails, and frozen public waters and on road rights-of-way• Must have a valid driver's license to make a direct crossing of a roadway or operate on road rights-of-way.
16 and 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must successfully complete the ATV independent study course component before operating on public lands, frozen waters, public road rights-of-way, or state or grant-in-aid trails• Must have a valid driver's license to make a direct crossing of a roadway or operate on road rights-of-way• Must wear approved helmet while operating or riding on public lands, trails, and frozen public waters and on road rights-of-way.

Know the uniqueness of ATV design and the potential risk of accidents and injury.

ATV DESIGN

POTENTIAL RISK

High ground clearance and short, narrow wheelbase

Operator must have sufficient size and weight to properly balance the vehicle. ATV may roll or flip with shift of body weight. ATV is more likely to roll than skid in turns and on hillsides.

Seating straddles the top of the machine

Requires operator to maintain balance on the machine. Operator can fall or be thrown. No protection for the operator in a collision or roll over.

Wide, low pressured, knobby tires

Wobble or bounce may cause loss of control. Vehicle is more likely to roll than skid in turns and on hillsides.

Powerful drive train with high and low gear ratios

Has power to climb or accelerate until it flips over backwards. Capable of speed too fast for conditions and or skill of the operator.

Fixed rear axle for traction

Prevents the inner wheel from rotating freely when attempting turns on pavement. Loss of control occurs when torque to the inner wheel releases in the sudden lurch forward.

Passengers

An ATV operator needs the entire seat area to maintain stability and control. The additional weight and positioning by passengers greatly restricts the operator's ability to maintain safe control, which can lead to flipping or rollovers. Because most ATVs do not provide footrests or handgrips for a passenger, the passenger has a high risk of falling or being thrown from the machine. Anytime there is loss of control, both the operator and the passenger are at high risk of injury or death.

Most Class 1 ATVs are not made or designed to carry passengers. The multi-person vehicles typically have a longer wheelbase and other features for better stability while carrying more than one person. Please follow the manufacturer's recommendations and safety warnings.



ATV FIT REQUIREMENTS

Leg Length

A minimum of 3 inches of clearance between the seat and the top inseam of the pants when standing on the footrests is required to enable the operator to maintain balance on the footrests when turning and riding over hills and rough terrain.

Arm Length

While seated on the machine and gripping the handlebars there should be a distinct bend in the arm at the elbow. Without a bend, there will not be sufficient reach to properly grip the handlebars when turning.

Hand Size

While gripping the handle bar with fingers extended to the brake lever, the first joint of the index finger should extend beyond the brake lever. If it doesn't, the hand is too small to safely operate the brake.

Why Children Are At Risk Operating ATVs

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (USCPSC) states that a variety of factors converge to place children at risk as operators of ATVs including:

- **Children believe products purchased by their parents are safe.**
- **Danger and risk are underestimated because of the child's own lack of experience with accidents.**
- **Children between the ages of 12 and 15 often overestimate their skills, particularly with increased experience.**

ATV EDUCATION AND SAFETY TRAINING

ATV safety training is recommended for everyone who operates an ATV. The course includes ATV familiarization, operating procedures, safety concerns, rules and regulations, ethics, and environmental considerations.

Persons under 16 years of age must successfully complete both the ATV safety training independent study course and the riding component before operating an ATV on public lands, frozen

waters, public road rights-of-way, or state or grant-in-aid trails. There is an exception for youths age 10 or 11 to operate an ATV up to 90cc on public lands or frozen waters if accompanied by parent or legal guardian.

Also, anyone born after July 1, 1987 and who is 16 years or older must successfully complete the ATV safety training course before operating an ATV on public lands, frozen waters, public road rights-of-way, or state or grant-in-aid trails.

The ATV safety training course is available for anyone 11 or older. Eleven year olds may take the all-terrain vehicle safety education and training program, but the certificate is not valid until they reach age 12.

The ATV Safety Training Course consists of an independent study CD and a classroom review/exam and riding component. The independent study must be completed prior to the student taking riding component. The independent study CD is available free of charge by calling the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157, toll-free 1-888-646-6367, or DNR Safety Training Program Office at 1-800-366-8917. The cost of the course is \$15.00 and is collected at the classroom review/exam and riding component session.

ATV GENERAL OPERATIONS

- **A valid driver's license is required to operate an ATV in a road right-of-way.**
- **A driver's license is not required on a designated trail that includes a road right-of-way.**
- **Anyone born after July 1, 1987 AND who is 16 years of age or older, must successfully complete the ATV independent study course component before operating an ATV on public lands, frozen waters, public road rights-of-way, or state or grant-in-aid trails.**
- **ATVs may not be operated with a snorkel device that has a raised air intake six inches or more above the manufacturer's original air intake. Exception: ATVs with snorkel devices may be operated within the Iron Range OHV State Recreation Area and other designated public OHV recreation areas.**

- **Agricultural zone restriction:** You may not drive a Class 1 ATV within the right-of-way, including the ditch, of a state or county road from April 1 to August 1 in the agricultural zone. (See definition on page 7.) This does not apply to a Class 1 ATV registered and used for agricultural purposes. Class 2 ATVs cannot operate in a ditch even with an agricultural registration.
- The headlight and taillight must be on at all times if your ATV is equipped with them.
- You may not exceed 10 mph on the frozen surface of public waters within 100 feet of another person that is not on an ATV (including people that are fishing) or within 100 feet of a fish shelter.
- Grant-in-aid snowmobile and non-motorized trails are closed to ATVs unless specifically allowed.
- You may operate an off-highway vehicle on a bridge, a roadway shoulder, or the inside bank of a public road right-of-way if necessary to avoid obstructions to travel. You must remain on the farthest right-hand lane, enter the roadway within 100 feet of the bridge or obstacle and make the crossing without delay.
- You may not cross a bridge that is part of the traveled lanes of an interstate highway.
- Road authorities have the ability to restrict ATV operation on road rights-of-way and in ditches.
- A person with a valid driver's license may operate an ATV registered for private use and being used for agricultural purposes on a public right-of-way of a trunk, county, state aid, or county highway, if the ATV is on the extreme right side of the road. A left turn may be made if it is safe to do so.
- **Operation on a township road:** A person with a valid driver's license may operate an ATV on the far right-hand side of a township road, unless prohibited by local regulations. If traveling at a slower speed than other traffic on the township road, the ATV should be driven as close as practical to the right hand edge of the road.



OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLE SECTION

OHM YOUTHFUL OPERATORS

It is unlawful for anyone in control of an OHM to allow it to be operated contrary to the following requirements.

Age	Requirement
Under 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way • May not operate OHM on a public road or public road right-of-way • May not operate OHM on public lands or frozen public waters unless accompanied on another OHM by a person 18 years of age or older • Must possess a valid OHM safety certificate to operate on public lands or frozen public waters • Must wear eye protection • Must wear an approved helmet when operating on public lands and frozen waters.
Under 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must possess a valid OHM safety certificate to operate on public lands or frozen public waters • May make a direct crossing of a public road (except an interstate highway) if accompanied on another OHM by a person 18 years of age or older with a valid driver's license • May operate within a road right-of-way that is part of a designated trail when accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older with a valid driver's license • Must wear eye protection • Must wear an approved helmet when operating on public lands, frozen waters, and public road rights-of-way.
16 and 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have a driver's license to operate an OHM on a public roadway, and the motorcycle must be licensed for highway use (A driver's license is not required on designated trails when the trail specifically includes the road right-of-way.) • Must wear eye protection • Must wear an approved helmet when operating on public lands, frozen waters, and public road rights-of-way.

Safety Tips

- Any person who operates an OHM must wear eye protection.
- Always wear a helmet and protective clothing.
- Never carry a passenger on a vehicle intended for one-person use.



OHM EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The DNR Division of Enforcement administers an OHM safety training program. The course includes OHM familiarization, operating procedures, OHM laws, loading and towing procedures, ethics, safety hazards and environmental considerations.

For a \$5 fee students who successfully complete the CD training are issued a safety certificate.

For more information or a duplicate OHM safety certificate call the DNR Information Center, Twin Cities 651-296-6157, toll-free 1-888-646-6367, or DNR Safety Training Program Headquarters 1-800-366-8917.

OHM GENERAL OPERATIONS

- **You may not operate an OHM in ditches, unless it is a trail designated for OHM use. OHMs registered for highway use may operate on roadways. See diagram on page 7.**
- **A valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement is required to operate anywhere on road rights-of-way including crossing roads. The only exception would be on portions of a designated trail that specifically include a road right-of-way.**
- **Your OHM must have a headlight, taillight, and brakes to be operated on a public road. The lights must be on while operating on a trunk, county, state aid, or county highway or when crossing a public road right-of-way, one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise or in conditions of reduced visibility.**
- **You must wear eye protection when operating an OHM.**
- **You may not exceed 10 mph on the frozen surface of public waters within 100 feet of a person fishing or a fishing shelter.**
- **Sound levels for OHMs manufactured after 1986 may not exceed 96 decibels when operated on public lands.**

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE SECTION **ORV YOUTHFUL OPERATORS**



A person under 16 years of age may not operate an ORV. And an owner of an ORV may not allow it to be operated by a person under 16 years of age.

ORV EDUCATION AND SAFETY TRAINING

An ORV environmental and safety training CD is available for persons 16 or older. The course covers ORV familiarization, operation procedures, law, towing procedures, ethics, safety hazards, and environmental considerations. For more information call the DNR Information Center, Twin Cities 651-296-6157, toll-free 1-888-646-6367, or DNR Safety Training Program Headquarters at 1-800-366-8917.

ORV GENERAL OPERATIONS

- **All ORV passengers and operators must wear seat belts.**
- **DNR strongly recommends passengers and operators wear safety helmets at all times.**
- **A valid driver's license is required to cross roads. The only exception would be for those portions of a designated trail that specifically include a road right-of-way.**
- **ORVs are required to have lights on while crossing public roads one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and during periods of reduced visibility.**
- **You may operate on state forest roads, trails, and lands as described on pages 19 - 23.**
- **You may not operate an ORV within the right-of-way of an interstate highway or within a public road right-of-way except on a designated trail.**

ORV Free Admission Day

On May 17, 2008, the Iron Range Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area will not require registration on any ORVs that visit the site on that day. The Free Admission Day falls on the third Saturday in May each year.